

Group I, including claims 1-14 and 19, drawn to hybrid protein;

Group II, including claims 15-18, drawn to DNA molecule, expression vectors and host cells expressing a hybrid protein and a method of expressing the DNA molecule; and

Group III, including claim 20, drawn to a method for inducing follicular maturation by administering the hybrid protein. Restriction to one of these three groups was required by the examiner.

Applicant hereby elects the invention of Group I without traverse. The claims of Groups II and III have now been deleted without prejudice toward the filing of a divisional application.

The examiner has further made an election requirement with respect to this case stating that there are eleven disclosed species for sequence (a) of claim 1 and five disclosed species for sequence (b) of claim 1. The examiner considers each combination of each species to be patentably distinct and has therefore required election to a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The examiner notes that currently all claims are generic. The examiner further states that upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species.

Without conceding that the species are patentably distinct, applicant hereby elects species A (TBP1) for sequence (a) and species L (hCG) for sequence (b). This election is made for searching purposes only as it is understood that the examiner

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will examine the generic claims if the species is not found.  
Applicant expressly does not waive the possibility of arguing the appropriateness of this election of species requirement when and if any prior art is found by the examiner.

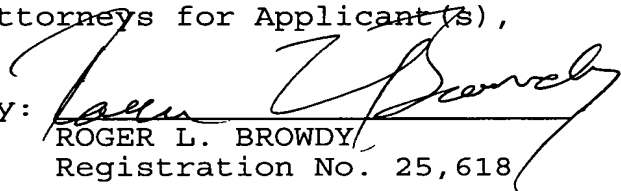
Accordingly, prompt consideration and action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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